

REMARKS

Claims 6-21 are currently pending in this application in view of the claim amendments. Claims 1-5 have been canceled without prejudice and new claims 6-21 have been added, of which 6 and 17 are independent. New claims 6-21 are supported throughout the specification, for example by original claims 1, 3 and 5, FIG. 1 and paragraphs [0022], [0026]-[0033], and [0049]. No new matter has been added. Furthermore, claims 6-21 are directed to elected species I, FIG. 1.

In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are allowable and the application is in condition for allowance.

Claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102/103

Original claims 1-3 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Ueshima (US 6,335,114). Applicants respectfully disagree.

However, in an effort to expedite prosecution, original claims 1-5 have been canceled in view of new claims 6-21, which clarify the subject matter of the application.

As recited in independent claims 6 and 17, the subject matter of the present application is directed to a lithium ion secondary battery in which the collecting portions are formed on end portions of an electrode plate. These end portions are positioned at ends in the winding direction, which is in a longitudinal direction. This configuration is shown, for example, in FIG. 1, which shows an electrode plate having collecting portions (7, 7') formed on end portions of the electrode plate.

In contrast to the above configuration as recited in claims 6 and 17, Ueshima only

discloses current collecting portions (protrusions) protruding out of an end portions of an electrode plate, these end portions are positioned at ends in the winding axis direction, which is in a *vertical* direction (see Ueshima claim 1 and FIG. 7). Thus, it is clear that Ueshima does not teach or suggest current collecting portions disposed on end portions positioned at ends in a **longitudinal** direction as recited in claim 6.

Furthermore, as recited in claims 6 and 17, the electrode plate includes a separator **and** a porous film. In contrast, Ueshima discloses a porous film, which is included in FIGS. 6, and 7 but does not teach or suggest a porous film **and** a separator, as recited in claim 6. Rather, Ueshima describes that using a porous film *in place of* a separator prevents winding misalignment as in the case of a separator, (see col. 25, line 33 of Ueshima). However, the electrode plate configuration of the present subject matter, per claims 6 and 17, includes a **separator made of a microporous film** and a porous film **containing 50 wt% or more of an inorganic oxide filler and below 50 wt% of a binder.**

Moreover, the electrode plate as recited in claim 6 includes leads that are welded to the current collector portions on the end portions of the electrode plate, and these end portions are positioned at the ends in the **longitudinal direction**.

In contrast, as illustrated in Ueshima FIG. 3, the current collectors 213 and 214 are connected to protrusions 23 positioned on end portions of the electrode plate, and these end portions are positioned at the ends in the *vertical* direction.

Therefore, it is clear that Ueshima fails to teach or suggest all of the structural elements of the lithium ion secondary battery as recited in claims 6 and 17. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 6 and 17 are allowable over the cited prior art references. Furthermore, claims 7-16 and 18-21 depend from and further define the subject matter of claims 6 and 17

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respectively and therefore are also allowable.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that this application should be allowed and the case passed to issue. If there are any questions regarding this Amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated to expedite the prosecution of the application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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